



Paying homage to victims and survivors of violence, intolerance and extremism

Report on:

16 days of Activism under AAWAZ Programme

for elimination of gender based violence



ACRONYMS

ADF	AAWAZ District Forum
AF	Aurat Foundation
CEFM	Child, Early Forced Marriage
CM	Chief Minister
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
CS	Civil Society
GBV	Gender Based Violence
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
UC	Union Council
VAW	Violence against Women

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 16 Days Campaign is an international campaign that started in 1991 originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute. The dates between November 25 - International Day against Violence against Women (VAW) and December 10 - International Human Rights Day had been decided to symbolically link violence against women and human rights to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights of women.

The 16 Days Campaign by AAWAZ was to give a collective call for the acknowledgement and fight against GBV, CEFM and violence against women.

The objectives of the campaign were to raise awareness among communities about violence against women, ways to address it, call for legislative agenda at state and provincial level (in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). Activities were organized on union council, district, provincial and national level, to ensure participation of all 45 districts. Activities such as Apon ki Yaad, Siyasi Bethak etc. allowed the campaign to take forward its initiative by encouraging participation of locals via a connective strategy.

BACKGROUND

AAWAZ Initiative

The 16 Days Campaign is an international campaign that started in 1991 originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute. The dates between November 25 - International Day against Violence against Women (VAW) and December 10 - International Human Rights Day had been decided to symbolically link violence against women and human rights to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights of women. The 16 Days Campaign was used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to give a collective call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

This was conducted by raising collective voices, strengthening local, national, regional and international networks, demonstration of solidarity worldwide to end VAW and bringing innovative strategies and tools to combat this. 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) Campaign continued the theme of "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women!" in 2014.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a universal reality existing in all societies regardless of socio-economic status, culture or any other form of diversity. Many women have been, and still are experiencing violence which has adversely affected their psychological and bodily health, as well as productivity and participation in their homes, communities and work place. One of the biggest forms of GBV is child, early and forced marriage (CEFM).

It is a widespread and harmful practice that threatens the lives and futures of girls around the world, with devastating consequences. CEFM denies girls their right to childhood, disrupts their access to education and jeopardizes their health and development. This is a global crisis and demands for a collective effort to build pressure on states undergoing the practice for taking responsibility of it and addressing it.

Women and marginalized groups like those of religious and ethnic minorities and persons with disability are the main focus of AAWAZ interventions. AAWAZ commemorated sixteen days of activism in collaboration with its partner communities to raise voice against discriminatory laws and to call upon state to take up responsibility for effective implementation of existing laws addressing women's rights. AAWAZ plans to organize activities starting from village level to national level. The activities were charted originating from UC level, passing on to District and on a National level.

Theme

"Speak up for legislation on stopping domestic violence and, child, early and forced marriage (CEFM)"

Objectives

Following were the objectives of commemorating 16 days of activism:

- Raise awareness through the most effective and appropriate channels among communities about violence against women and ways to address it
- Build pressure on state for legislation on stopping CEFM
- Build an advocacy on domestic violence legislation at provincial level in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- To align activities in the AAWAZ Programme with that of the international theme for this year (2014), this focuses on peace at home to peace in the world initiatives, by challenging militarism and ending violence against women in the region.

ACTIVITIES

Following key activities were planned under the campaign:

Activities at UC Level

- **Activity Title: “*Apnon ki Yaad*”**

Memorials were held at AAWAZ AAGAH centers; to commemorate women of that particular area who had lost their lives due to violence. In this activity; candle vigil was also conducted reminiscing the pain and agony of victims of violence. The community was also asked to bring any object like comb, shoes, clothes, accessories etc. belonging to the deceased woman to honor her memory.

Apart from this, women who had fought with the odds and struggled to get their rights in the community were also invited to share their struggle stories and act as inspiration for other women. This memorial helped the team conjure affiliation to women victims turning them from statistics into living, breathing, feeling, human beings-women. The main purpose of this activity was to generate discussion regarding the hardships and issues faced by women of the community specifically related to violence and ways to combat the violence. Issues highlighted by the participants have been compiled in the report.

Increased awareness on VAW, CEFM, pro-women laws, passed resolution and signatory campaign for demand on legislation. Besides this, provided an opportunity to relatives of victims for sharing stories of their beloveds...

– “*Apnon Ki Yaad*”

Activities at District Level

- **Activity Title: “*Meet Our Sisters/ Meri Hamjoliyan*”**

A visit to shelter homes, jails, mental asylums, old age homes, *Eidhi* centers, *Dar-ul-Aman* and, meetings with persons with disabilities or HIV AIDS patients were conducted under this activity in all districts from 25th November till 10th December. AAWAZ teams and ADF members met with women victims of violence, who were seeking shelter and protection in any of the aforementioned institutions. Teams presented victims and patients with gifts, souvenirs and bouquets during their visit. Also, during the visit, ADF and AAWAZ team noted issues faced by women seeking shelter.

Collection and taking up the demands to provincial and national level

– “*Meri Hamjoliyan*”

- **Activity Title: "Sayasi Bhetak"**

Dialogues and study circles were initiated at district level initiated under which representatives of various political parties, lawyers, media etc. in the region were invited to open discussion on need of legislation for stopping CEFM. The purpose of this activity was to generate discourse about the required legislation at district level and raising these objectives to provincial and national level events also conducted during the 16 days of activism. Demands raised during these conferences and study circles regarding domestic violence and CEFM were consolidated and presented at provincial and national level.

(A list of dignitaries who attended this activity from 13 districts of AF is attached as annexure 1)

Political statements from various political party's representatives, MNA's, MPA's, district presidents and their commitment and willingness towards mobilisation for the passage of legislation on stopping domestic violence and CEFM.

- **Siyasi Bhetak**

Activities at Provincial Level

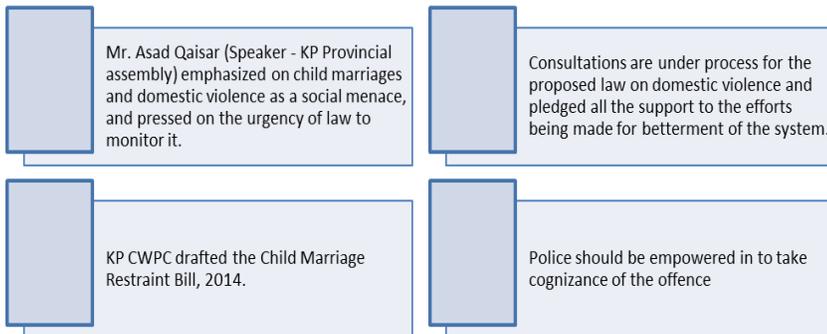
- **Provincial Conference in Peshawar (25 November 2014)**

AAWAZ Consortium partners (AF, SPO, SAPPK, and SUNGI) organised this provincial conference. It was held on the 25th of November, 2014. The 16 days of Activism campaign, raised awareness about GBV as a human rights issue at local, regional and national levels. Because this year's AAWAZ Program theme was set as; **"Speak up for legislation on Stopping Domestic Violence and Child, Early and Forced Marriage,"** the topic included heated debate and agenda setting calling for action against this social menace.

Mr. Asad Qaiser; KP provincial assembly Speaker was the chief guest of the occasion, accompanied with Special Assistant to CM and Mr. Arif Yousaf (MPA from PK-4), along with other Members of the Provincial Assembly, lawyers and general participants. Mr. Qaisar emphasized on child marriages and domestic violence as a social menace, and pressed on the urgency of law to monitor it. He further discussed that consultations were going on the proposed law on containing domestic violence and pledged all the support to the efforts being made for betterment of the system.

Mr. Ejaz Khan; Deputy Chief of the Child Welfare and Protection Commission (CWPC), and Dr. Murad Afridi; Chief Commissioner CWPC were amongst the active participants of the conference. KP CWPC drafted the Child Marriage Restraint Bill, 2014. The draft of the proposed law is awaiting to be vetted by the law department, and will be shared with MPAs for further approval. The penalties in the law are very nominal and the mechanism provided for monitoring the rate and causes of child marriages are ineffective, thus the bill proposes that the offence of child marriage shouldn't be bail-able and non-compoundable; leaving no room for compromises and settlements often made beforehand among the relevant parties. The commission also proposed that police should be empowered in these cases to take cognizance of the offence, as currently the offence is non-cognizable. The highlight of the proposal is to increase minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18 years, following the legislative clause of minimum age for boys at 18.

Ms. Saima Munir (Regional Manager) was also an asset to the conference who presented statistics of cases of violence against women. These cases were reported in three quarters of the year 2014 in KP. A total of 604 cases were reported in 270 days, indicating a high rate of cases of violence; up to 46 per cent cases pertained to killings, 33.5 per cent were cases of attempted-murder, 13 per cent suicides by victims of violence and 8 percent related to killings in the name of honor. She further elaborated on her clause by providing an estimated ratio of; 80 suicide cases to 47 honor killings.



Barrister Hashim Raza was another significant presence at the conference; he discussed the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2014, and highlighted the salient features of it and urged a citizen and CS involvement to place setups to assist women and children surviving violence.

AF Resident Director Ms. Shabina Ayaz shared her views indicating that Sindh and Baluchistan have made laws on Domestic Violence but KP had yet to follow in the suit. She presented 100,000 signatures to Mr. Qaisar; the signatory campaign was carried out at provincial level and it had signatures taken from citizens across the province to demand legislation for ending domestic violence.

▪ **Provincial Conference in Lahore (8th December 2014)**

On 8th December, conference bearing the same theme of **“Speak up for legislation on Stopping Domestic Violence and Child, Early and Forced Marriage,”** was held in Lahore. A collaboration of AF and AAWAZ Consortium partners (SPO, SAPPK, SUNGI), this 16 days of Activism campaign, managed to raise awareness regarding violence and GBV as a human rights issues at local, regional and national level, and CEFM.

Minister for Women and Minorities, social activists and Ulema Committees addressed this conference and raised demand of legislation for the eradication of violence against women and early child marriages in the region. Ms. Hameeda Wahiduddin, Minister Women Development ensured her priority by promising efforts to motivate CM for presenting domestic violence bill as a government bill. She also shun light on her efforts to increase of women representation in LG. Ms. Wahiduddin further shared her team’s efforts on more effective amendments in Family Laws, which will also ease the process of Nikkah.

Mr. Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Minister Human Rights and Minorities shared his work with Minister of Women Development, for effective implementation of inheritance law. One effort was on simplifying procedures for mutation of property of women and giving possessions’ immediately after mutation on heritage grounds.

The speakers declared violence against women as a rampant across the country and requested for effective action as a need using a holistic policy approach to achieve a violence free society. Emphasis was put on ensuring effective implementation of existing laws as well.

Discussed in the conference were stories of survivors of GBV who shun light on their struggle and acted as motivators for other women to speak up and take stand. Women activists also shared their experiences regarding hardships faced due to their career choice and the general societal norm encircling women. Victims at Dar-ul-Aman and jails were an important presence at the conference; they shared their stories and discussed court cases proceedings to gather view and solutions from general discussions.

Apart from this, also discussed was the importance of inclusion of labor, farmer, children and minorities in all spheres of life with providing more opportunities. So the conference was not only directed to CEFM and women but also focusing on minorities. Mr. Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Minister for Minority Affairs was also an active participant in the conference giving his views on minority issues and also on the need for women protection.

Minister shared that amendments' are being made to the draft for effective enforcement of sexual harassment law.	
Facilitate women easier access to police and courts, police stations staff should be adequately trained to facilitate the victims	Importance of inclusion of labor, farmer, children and minorities in all spheres of life with providing more opportunities

Chairman Ulama-Aman Committee Punjab, and Mufti Akeel -ur-Rehman Perzada shared references from the Holly Quran backed by Sunnah; regarding the topic especially in terms of prevention of women and children from violence and elimination of forced marriage and early child marriage.

Overall, the main emphasis was put on the importance of a violence free society as a healthy society because it creates hurdles in making Pakistan as developed country, and decreases opportunities of social and human development. Government Legislators shared that a bill criminalizing violence against women will soon be presented in the Punjab assembly. It concluded that implementation and monitoring is required to achieve the objectives of conference and legislation on domestic violence, CEFM issues in these regions.

Activity at National Level

The national campaign was launched on 10th December with a rally highlighting the theme of; **“Speak up for legislation on stopping Domestic Violence and Child, Early and Forced Marriages”**. Consortium partners, strategic networks, alliances and other campaigns were engaged to organise rally of more than 1000 participants. Community people, members of AVF/AUF/ATF/ADF from various districts, civil society representatives, lawyers, academia, youth, media etc. participated in this event. Memorial to pay homage to victims and survivors of violence, intolerance and extremism titled as; **“Apno ki Yaad** was also held. The public event eclipsed hundreds of chairs, filled up by men and women who had travelled from Islamabad, KP and Punjab to raise their voice for voiceless.

Speaking to the event, Rabeea Hadi, Director Advocacy, Aurat Foundation, said despite the passage of the Criminal law (Third Amendment) Act, 2011 which deals with the anti-women customary practices like wanni, swara etc., forced marriages and child marriages, these practices still continue unabated in the country. She informed that a total of **7, 450** cases of violence against women were reported during the nine months of 2014 which is sufficient to realise that violence against women is on the rise.

Asiya Nasir, Member National Assembly, Jamiat ulema-i-Islam-Fazl condemned the forced conversions women and girls belonging from minority groups, and their forceful marriages to Muslim men. Women rights should be acknowledged, respected and socially as well as legislatively implemented as human rights.

Akram Khursheed, National Programme Manager, SPO, read resolutions for ending violence against women, putting emphasis on the criminality of domestic violence and that it should be declared a crime in the eyes of law. The law on marrying young girls was suggested to be amended with minimum age set at 18 years. He further suggested that these laws need to be extended to Gilgit-Baltistan region and the tribal areas.

Renowned poet Kishwar Naheed recited verses on ending violence against women, and proposed that girls/women should be taught self-defense tactics in schools, so they can protect themselves. A signature campaign was also launched during the event; demanding for voices anti-violence, and bringing legislation and ensuring effective implementation of such laws.

With a vision "Peace at home to peace at world," the rally paid homage to victims and survivors of violence, intolerance and extremism. Supporters marched from National Press Club to Super Market chanting slogans against perpetrators of violence and government 'apathy' in punishing them. Orange flags piled at the reception desk were guarded by a team of youngsters that handed out placards with heart-wrenching messages of support and courage for victims of GBV.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Raised awareness of **22,933** (16,027 women and 6906 men) regarding various pro-women laws, women rights, GBV, etc.
- Charter of demand from 45 districts (attached in annexure 2)
- Issues, challenges being shared by **22,933** participants at UC, district and national level
- Demands being raised and signed by **130,464** people from 45 districts
- Asserting pressure on government for necessary amendment's in existing laws on CEFM
- Generated a discourse across 45 districts, 2 provinces and at national level about the necessary legislation on stopping domestic violence and CEFM
- Raised demand for proactive role of law enforcement agencies for stopping honor killing incidents
- Demand for effective implementation on anti-dowry law
- Raised awareness among community, media, police, shelter homes, jail authorities
- Resolutions were passed at all levels from UC to National against early and forced marriages and political representatives have extended all their support for it
- Forums must be provided to allow participation and easier access of women to police and courts
- Women crises centers must be formed with adequately trained staff
- Databases must be set up with mandatory registration of first-time offenders and repeated offenders for record keeping
- Mobilisation of the legislators especially those from ruling parties' for the passage of domestic violence bill and stopping CEFM in various activities being conducted at district, provincial and national level under commemoration of 16 days of activism
- Raised immediate need of legislation on proposed bill of stopping domestic violence
- Raised need of stopping CEFM, Punjab Assembly passed a resolution on 23rd December, putting a ban on Child marriages. The resolution was moved by Ms. Azma Zahid Bokhari, (PML N MPA) and Convener of Women Caucus in Punjab. Advocacy efforts are now being taken to amend the existing laws on child marriages in Punjab

(Data from 39 districts)

PICTURE GALLERY



A glimpse of activities being conducted in various districts of AAWAZ Programme under commemoration of 16 days of activism

ANNEXURE 1 – DIGNITRIES ATTENDING ACTIVITIES DURING 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Political party's' representatives, In-charge Dar-ul-Aman, UC secretaries, EDO health, EDO education, EDO social welfare, EDO community development, prisoners' welfare society, bureau chiefs' of various print media, members of district bars, academia etc. were part of activities being conducted at various tiers under 16 days of activism. Some of them are listed below: (AF districts only)

S. No	Name	Designation	District
1.	Tabia Zameer	EX MPA	Sargodha
2.	Tahira Aurangzeb	MNA (PML N)	Rawalpindi
3.	Sarkar Abass	Advocate High court Federal Shariat Law	Rawalpindi
4.	Dewan Mushtaq	PMLN, District General Secretary	Mandi Bahauddin
5.	Rafia Rizvi	District president PMLN Women Wing	Mandi Bahauddin
6.	Faisal Mukhtar	District President PTI	Mandi Bahauddin
7.	Dewan Shamim	District President PPP	Mandi Bahauddin
8.	Mian Khalid Shaheen	District President PMLN	Rahim Yaar Khan
9.	Amina Begum	President Women Wing PMLN	Rahim Yaar Khan
10.	Saima Tariq	Tehsil President PTI Sadiqabad	Rahim Yaar Khan
11.	Muhammad Farooq	EX MPA PMLN	Rajan Pur
12.	Manzoor Malik	General Manager NCHD	Rajan Pur
13.	Abdul Sattar	District Manager Save the Children	Rajan Pur
14.	Raja Khurram Shahzad	District Coordination officer	Jhang
15.	Zarina Shiekh	District President PMLN	Jhang
16.	Imdad Hussain	District President PTI	Jhang
17.	Zartaj Gull	City President women wing PTI	DG Khan
18.	Surayia Rana	Manager Benazir Women crises center	DG Khan
19.	Ashfaq	Ac Headquarters	Swat
20.	Rozi Khan	Focal person for MPA at district level	Swat
21.	Rahatullah	District officer Social welfare	Swat
22.	Dr. Mehar Taj Roghani	Adviser to CM on Social welfare	Kohat
23.	Imtiaz Shahid	Provincial Law Minister	Kohat
24.	Shehryar Afridi	MNA	Kohat
25.	Zia Ullah Bangash	MPA	Kohat
26.	Zareen Zia	MPA	Kohat
27.	Jaffar Khan	Director Social welfare	Kohat
28.	Naila Naz	District president of PTI	Nowshera
29.	Nigar Rauf	Social worker/District president of PPP	Nowshera
30.	Malak Awais khan	Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai	Mardan

ANNEXURE 2 – CHARTER OF DEMANDS



صنفتی تشدد کے خلاف فعالیت کے 16 دن قرارداد

ہم آج 10 دسمبر کو انسانی حقوق کے عالمی دن کے موقع پر ہونے والی اس کانفرنس کے شرکاء کو مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ:

- عورتوں پر ہونے والے تشدد کی روک تھام کے لئے گھر بلو تشدد کے خلاف قانون سازی کی جائے اور گھر بلو تشدد کو جرم قرار دیا جائے۔
- کم عمری کی شادی کے قانون میں ترمیم کی جائے اور شادی کی کم سے کم عمر 18 سال کی جائے جبکہ خلاف ورزی پر سزا اور جرمانے میں اضافہ کیا جائے۔
- صنفتی برابری کو ممکن بنانے کے لئے ایسے عملی اقدامات کئے جائیں جو عورتوں اور نظر انداز کئے جانے والے گروہوں کو برابری کی سطح پر لانے میں مثبت کردار ادا کر سکیں۔
- عورتوں کے خلاف منصفی روموں کے قانون کو موثر بنایا جائے، اس میں موجود قسم کو درست کیا جائے اور اس قانون کا دائرہ کار گلگت بلتستان، فانا (FATA) اور پاننا (PATA) تک بڑھایا جائے۔
- تشدد سے متاثرہ عورتوں کی معاونت کرنے والے اداروں کو مستحکم کیا جائے تاکہ ونڈ و آپریشن کے ذریعے متاثرہ عورتوں کو چھت تلے قانونی اور میڈیکل امداد تک رسائی حاصل ہو سکے اور بعد میں ان کی بحالی کو ممکن بنایا جاسکے۔
- ہر پولیس اسٹیشن میں خواتین محرک تعینات کیا جائے۔
- مصالحتی کمیٹیوں میں خواتین کو برابری کی سطح پر نمائندگی دی جائے۔
- انتہا پسندی اور عدم برداشت کے خاتمے کے لئے حقیقی جمہوری اقدار اور تعلیم کو فروغ دیا جائے۔
- قوانین پر عمل درآمد اور انصاف کی جلد فراہمی کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔

ہم اس کانفرنس کے شرکاء اس موقع پر قرارداد پیش کرتے ہیں کہ مندرجہ بالا مطالبات کو پورا کرنے کیلئے قومی اور صوبائی اسمبلیاں عملی پیش رفت کریں اور عورتوں اور بچیوں پر ہونے والے تشدد کے خاتمے کو اپنی ترجیحات میں شامل کریں کیونکہ

ملکی ترقی کی اساس
عورتوں اور بچیوں میں تحفظ کا احساس

آئیے اس عزم کا اعادہ کریں کہ گھر پُرامن، تو معاشرہ پُرامن۔

ANNEXURE 4 – PRESS CLIPPINGS

From districts of AF

Residents of Darul Amaan share their stories

Musa Inayat

Residents of Darul Amaan, Rawalpindi, shared their stories and requested solutions to real gender-related violence in the country at an event "Meeting My Sisters" organized on Wednesday. The meeting was organized by Aneeqa, a group of NGOs, in collaboration with 30 Days of Action against Gender Violence.

Speaking at an open forum, Aneeqa said that she and her colleagues, through their experience, had gathered that they performed a considerable and more "impact" (the district People's wing) better

working documentary on government. Her stage was also well managed by one of the speakers.

At the end, they shared their views with the participants. Most of the women residing in Darul Amaan felt their husbands (to violence) relationship with their husbands was not good. Many women in law were related to work on. They even tried to get their husbands to get together. They performed a considerable and more "impact" (the district People's wing) better

as for that incident. I decided to stay in my house for a few days. I was left with no one to take care of the house," said Shabana from Islamabad, who is 35 years old.

Meanwhile, only one woman who was present to share her story was Shabana. She said she was married to a man who was violent to her. She said she was married to a man who was violent to her. She said she was married to a man who was violent to her.

When asked for solutions, she advised women to be strong and to seek help from the police and legal system.